

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-10 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12

NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 IOE-00 USIE-00 ABF-01

OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 INRE-00

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, FAO

SUBJ: FAO COUNCIL, 66TH SESSION, BUDGET DISCUSSION

/SUMMARY/: FINAL DISCUSSION OF PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET
WAS RELATIVELY BRIEF AND FREE OF CONTROVERSY. FIGURES
SUPPORTED FOR BUDGET CEILINGS RANGED FROM \$165 TO 177 MILLION,
WITH 170 THE MEDIAN LEVEL. WIDESPREAD COMMENTS ON PROGRAM
PRIORITIES WERE MADE, WITH ONLY FEW SUBJECTS STANDING OUT.

/END SUMMARY/

1. CHAIRMAN CALLED REPEATEDLY FOR BRIEF, CONCISE STATEMENTS
AIMED AT REACHING CONSENSUS ON TOTAL BUDGET LEVEL FOR 1976-77
BIENNIIUM. DELEGATIONS COMPLIED ONTHE WHOLE. DG HAD REDUCED
REQUEST FROM \$177 MILLION (WHICH AMOUNTED TO \$184 MILLION BY
ADDING LAPSE FACTOR) TO RANGE OF \$170 TO \$172 MILLION,
INCLUDING INFLATION FACTOR, NEW OFFICE SPACE AND GS PAY RAISES,
BUT EXCLUDING POSSIBLE EXCHANGE LOSSES.

2. SPEAKING EARLY IN SESSION, USDEL SUPPORTED PROGRAM AND
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AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET

AS PATTERN OF PRIORITIES TO BE FOLLOWED IN FINAL BUDGET.
CITED THREE CONSTRAINTS ON BUDGET PLANNING: MAGNITUDE OF LDC
NEEDS IN CONNECTION WITH INCREASE IN FOOD PRODUCTION,
CAPACITY OF FAO TO EXPAND PROGRAM DELIVERY, AND WILLINGNESS
OF GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT INCREASE IN BUDGET. OFFERED
\$165 MILLION AS TENTATIVE CEILING, SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT
CONSIDERATION, INCLUDING CURRENCY EXCHANGE RISK AS WELL AS
OTHER VARIABLES. STRESSED THAT THIS LEVEL REPRESENTED 25
PERCENT REAL PROGRAM INCREASE OVER PRESENT BIENNIAL, INSTEAD
OF BUDGET CUT FROM ORIGINAL REQUEST AS DESCRIBED BY
SECRETARIAT.

3. BUDGET CEILINGS SUPPORTED BY DIFFERENT DELEGATIONS
RANGED FROM \$165 TO \$177 BUT WERE MOSTLY AT OR NEAR \$170.
CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY RECOGNIZED MAJORITY VIEW OF FAVOR
OF \$170 MILLION CEILING INCLUDING ALL VARIABLES. DG PRO-
MISED FULL CONSIDERATION OF STATEMENTS BUT RESERVED HIS RIGHT
TO DETERMINE PROPOSED BUDGET WHICH HE WOULD PRESENT TO CONFE-
RENCE. HE REJECTED INCLUSION OF CURRENCY EXCHANGE RISK
AT BUDGET LEVEL OF \$170-\$172 MILLION.

4. NUMEROUS DELEGATIONS GAVE OPINIONS ON PROGRAM PRIORITIES.
SUBJECTS MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED WERE INCREASE IN
LDC FOOD PRODUCTION AND FAO USE OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
(POSITIVE); REMOTE SENSING AND STAFF INCREASE OF 500
(NEGATIVE). OTHERWISE COMMENTS ON PRIORITIES WERE WIDE-
SPREAD AND INCONCLUSIVE. DG PROMISED SERIOUS CONSIDER-
RATION.VOLPE

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